MARINE CORPS
WARFIGHTING LABORATORY

COUNTER-SHOOTER TECHNOLOGIES

fact sheet

Counter Shooter Technologies:
Counter Shooter and gunfire detection location systems detect gunfire events by acoustic or infrared signatures. They have the ability to give the user azimuth, elevation, range, and warning of a gunfire event. Some are designed to be stationary while others have an on the move (OTM) capability.

Background:
A Sniper Detection System Universal Need Statement (UNS) was written at the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab (MCWL) in October 2000. Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC) validated and approved the UNS with recommendation to formulate a Mission Need Statement (MNS) at MCCDC in February 2002..

Description:
Acoustic systems have full time 360-degree capability with accurate ranges to 500 meters. Infrared (IR) cameras provide a 120-degree field of view with accurate ranges beyond 1000 meters. IR systems are typically more accurate than their acoustic counterparts, but susceptible to excessive heat. Acoustics are less prone to heat issues. Integration of the systems is the key to 360 degree detection capability at greater ranges. OTM detection and engagement capability can be achieved through the use of on board inertial navigation systems (INS). Some acoustic systems cannot work on vehicles due to engine noise and radio frequency (RF) emissions.

Proven benefits of Counter Shooter Testing:
- Detection and warning of sniper events.
- Accurate location for counter sniper actions.

Current Status:
Several acoustic countershooter systems were acquired by MCWL for subsequent assessment tests. In June 2005, a shootoff of these different countershooter technologies was conducted by MCWL at Marine Corps Base, Quantico. The shootoff included both open-field and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) scenarios to provide insight as to how each system functioned in the differing environments. MCWL is currently planning to select at least one of the acoustic countershooter systems for fielding in Iraq (approximately 25 systems) for User Evaluation.

Plans and Delvierable Product:
- Support acoustic Countershoot technology User Evaluation
- Transition acoustic Countershooter technology to MCSC
- Procure and test IR based countershooter technologies

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